

Questions around SGI Newsletters and the transparency of SGI-UK

A national Leader from SGI-UK has confirmed that President Ikeda does not write the whole content of SGI Newsletters that are attributed to him, but having reviewed the content, then goes on to approve them for publication.

This information should be widely available to the members. Why were we not informed of this? This would certainly explain the obvious departure from style and narrative that we have come to expect from our mentor. Indeed this clearly explains the unlikely exhortation attributed to President Ikeda that members should have the so called 'vaccine' referred to in his 2021 Peace Proposal.

The constant directives to read this or that Newsletter have largely replaced a collective seeking spirit in order to comply with the perceived direction despatched from our 'seniors' in faith.

President Ikeda, as we all know has worked tirelessly all his adult life to prepare us, Bodhisattvas of the Earth to further spread the true teachings of Buddhism. Since stepping aside some ten years ago, the incredible work he did has been utilised in a way that better suits the agenda of a new kind of leader. Now that we know for certain that not all words attributed to him are in fact his words, how can we continue to rely on them?

A truly transparent organisation?

When I first created the Buddhism in Westminster website for members of Westminster Chapter I posted copies of the e-bulletin in order that they may become more accessible.

It was clear that they weren't being accessed by the members at large. Not long afterwards I was called by the then editor of the SGI-UK magazine, the Art of Living and told categorically that the e-bulletins were not to be made available on the public domain. Naturally, as a conscientious practitioner, I complied and immediately removed them. But I couldn't help feeling why? What's so sensitive, so secretive that we mustn't allow non members to see what we do?

Additionally, treasuring the wisdom of our mentor, President Ikeda, I reposted copies of the Newsletters. It was perfectly obvious that the membership at large were failing to receive these in a timely manner, not surprising given the increasing regularity with which they were being published, and I knew of many members who weren't receiving them.

Following the call from the aforementioned editor, I was careful to ensure that only bona-fide members of SGI could access them via the website. Considering the majority of the content in the Newsletters is available on the public domain anyway (Via the Human Revolution, The New New Human Revolution and President Ikeda's many publications etc.) I found it strange that the distribution of the newsletters should be subject to these restrictions.

A couple of months ago I was called by a member of staff at Taplow Court and told to remove the copy of President Ikeda's 2021 Peace Proposal. But this is available on the public domain I countered, why should it be removed? I was told that it was fine to publish it as long as I removed the reference to the fact that it is an SGI newsletter. SGI Newsletters are for members only and must not be reposted on any website or social media platform. Why? Are we becoming a secret society?

The first General Director of SGI-UK (formerly NSUK before we were all excommunicated by the erroneous priesthood) Mr Richard Causton, went to great trouble to instil in us the fact that our organisation should be totally transparent. We have nothing to hide, he told us. If we are to be completely trusted by society, we must ensure that we are always completely open to inspection. Indeed, our motto of 'trust through friendship, peace through trust' relies upon such openness.

Another thing that Mr Causton emphasised was that Buddhism is spread through one to one, heart to heart contact. It's no good advertising on television or radio. It's only through developing close trusted relationships that people have the rare good fortune to encounter the mystic law.

With this in mind, one wonders how posting 'mini dialogue' reports on a website can have any true meaning? Or for that matter, adding the number of hours of Daimoku chanted to a website creates any value.

So our Centres have been closed since March 2019. These are OUR centres. They do not belong to a handful of leaders. In the UK we are told that we 'cannot' meet and chant together, even outdoors! Gohonzon's cannot be bestowed. No wonder then that the Youth Division's ambitious target to double the membership has failed. Now the present General Director is waiting for our young members to be 'vaccinated' with an experimental DNA altering substance with unknown side effects.

The 'Pandemic' hoax based on a mild flu variant has been used as an excuse to prevent kosen-rufu in the UK and further afield for too long.

It is time this stopped.